

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TODD LAWS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of the citizens of Taiwan. Todd Laws, of Delta County, Colorado, started his mission ten years ago by devoting his time and efforts to help improve the lives of Taiwanese youths. Todd's work serves as a valuable model of service to us all, and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing his achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Todd recently returned from Taiwan after an intensive week of facilitating training for the Young Life leaders within the country, an organization that combines Christian beliefs with basic human values. While there, he taught basic skills such as balancing a checkbook, marketing oneself for jobs, and morality. Todd hopes to return to Taiwan in the near future, to continue this noble and worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Todd Laws for reaching out to the youth of Taiwan. He has truly demonstrated a devotion to the teaching of morals and values to the world's youth, and I would like to thank him for his contributions to this noble endeavor before this body of Congress and this Nation today. Thanks for your service.

HONORING DORIS CHERRY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to acknowledge Ms. Doris Cherry, who has recently been named "Employee of the Year" by Congressional Guest Services, for her 28 years of exemplary service at the Longworth Cafeteria.

Ms. Cherry is well known by members of my staff and other congressional offices for her extraordinary reputation of friendliness and warmth. While she is being recognized as the "Employee of the Year", I daresay that if a poll were taken of the many thousands of people who use the Longworth Cafeteria, she would easily win any competition where customer service, patience and genuine kindness were at stake.

At a time when civility in human relations is arguably at low ebb, people like Doris Cherry remind us that a simple smile can make an enormous difference in all of our lives. She treats her job as an art, and not just a profession.

Doris has the kind of personality that warms the heart. She is a person we can all learn from. Perhaps her last years in Longworth will be spent on the other side of the cash register? She would make a great candidate for office and would no doubt have many admirers on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article from Roll Call newspaper in the RECORD, as a fitting tribute to this very gifted woman.

CAFETERIA WORKER IS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

(By Zach Miller)

For 28 years, Doris Cherry has been a regular sight in the Longworth Cafeteria. Working the checkout lines for the past 15 years, she is the friendly face at the end of a long line of hungry staffers. This year, Guest Services has named her Employee of the Year.

"I am very excited and very happy," Cherry said of the award, but in her now-trade-mark selfless attitude she added, "I am happy when my customers are happy. They come to the Food Court for a break. My job is to make them leave with a smile."

Born in Clinton, N.C., Cherry came to Washington, D.C., as a child. In 1976, she started work in the Longworth Cafeteria as a line server before becoming a grill cook and deli server. After a decade of making food, Doris moved to the checkout line registers, where she became the warm and kind fixture collecting money from House patrons and in return giving them a smile and a hello.

Cherry's manager, Eran Nuran, said she is a sweet person who genuinely cares about everyone she meets. "She is one of the most dependable team members here at Longworth. Customers will line up to 20 people at a time to get a chance to speak to Doris. Other registers will be open, but they think she is worth the wait," Nuran said.

Cherry once received a letter from a regular customer informing her he was leaving his job. In the letter the customer confessed that even though his office had free coffee every morning prepared for the staff, he would come to the cafeteria and pay for a cup just so he could say hello to her.

Cherry and her husband, Reginald, have four children and seven grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING MARIO DESANTIS FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Yonkers, New York, resident Mario DeSantis on his retirement after 57 years of service on behalf of Americans in Westchester County and all over the country.

As a young clerk at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Mr. DeSantis helped organize the employees of what was then the Manhattan District of the IRS as members of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU). The NTEU is the largest independent non-postal Federal employees union in the country, representing about 150,000 workers in 29 different government agencies. NTEU Chapter 47, to which Mr. DeSantis belongs and which he helped found, now represents 1,600 IRS employees in New York City and Westchester County.

Mr. DeSantis quickly took a leadership role in NTEU Chapter 47. As he rose through the ranks of the IRS to become a revenue officer, Mr. DeSantis also rose through the ranks of NTEU Chapter 47 as a steward, assistant chief steward, and associate vice president. His enthusiastic and effective work in these roles led to his election as national vice president for District 5 at the 1985 NTEU national convention.

He has also served as the legislative coordinator for Chapter 47 for the past 20 years. In this post, Mr. DeSantis has led the chapter's legislative advocacy program on behalf of all Federal employees. He has lobbied for better pay and benefits, against schemes to contract out government work, and to protect overtime pay. He has been particularly successful at organizing voter registration efforts. Each year, these drives have registered hundreds of citizens across Westchester County to vote. Because of his success as legislative coordinator, he came to lead the New York State delegation to the NTEU legislative conferences.

Mr. DeSantis is also a talented jazz musician and a member of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM). He has performed both professionally and at Chapter 47 holiday parties. His work on behalf of members of both AFM and NTEU came together in Las Vegas in 1995 during the NTEU national convention. Mr. DeSantis organized convention delegates to help walk a picket line at Caesar's Palace in solidarity with picketing members of AFM.

This anecdote clearly demonstrates the devotion and enthusiasm that Mr. DeSantis has brought to his struggle in support of workers all over the United States, from Federal employees to professional musicians. We can all take inspiration from the way that he sees a problem in society, whether the high number of unregistered voters or a lack of adequate benefits for workers, and commits himself to help fix that problem.

I thank Mr. DeSantis for almost 6 decades of public service and wish him the best in his retirement. The IRS, the members of NTEU and AFM, and the residents of Westchester County will all miss him. I am confident that, although he is retiring, the legacy Mr. DeSantis leaves behind will continue to motivate others to embrace service to their country with the commitment and energy that he did.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD NICHOLS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Richard Nichols, a citizen that has dedicated his life toward aiding others in medical distress. Richard has been an outstanding paramedic in Craig, Colorado and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing him before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Richard began his service to his community ten years ago as an ambulance driver, and before long enrolled in an EMT basic course. Seeing the benefit of his increasing skill level, Richard earned his paramedic license through the University of Colorado at Yampa Valley Medical Center. Today he values each opportunity where his crew's skills are tested and the patient walks out of the hospital, healed. Richard is also instrumental in the classroom where he teaches an EMT basic course at the Community College of Northwest Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Richard Nichols is a person who possesses unparalleled dedication and commitment to not only